

House Resolution 526

By: Representatives Johnson of the 37th, Manning of the 32nd, Teilhet of the 40th, Wix of the 33rd, and Jamieson of the 28th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring and remembering the life of Mr. G. B. Williams; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, when G. B. Williams was born in 1917 in the farming community of Salacoa
3 in Cherokee County, he was the youngest of eight children and the son of sharecroppers
4 during the Depression; and

5 WHEREAS, to help his family survive, he was forced to leave school in the third grade and
6 work as a field hand, but he used these early events to accumulate the wisdom which only
7 comes through experience and the strength of character which is achieved through
8 overcoming the many challenges of life; and

9 WHEREAS, when, at age 16, his mother died without access to proper medical care, it was
10 a turning point in his life that helped to shape the determined spirit that would later
11 characterize his many achievements; and

12 WHEREAS, he was probably best known as the proprietor of GB's Place, a combination
13 diner and grocery store at the heart of the Smyrna community from 1937 to 1974; and

14 WHEREAS, located near the rail depot, GB's Place was the diner where train passengers and
15 World War II servicemen passing through town could grab a quick bite to eat, thanks in part
16 to the innovative take out window he installed facing the tracks; the local teen hangout where
17 many boys found their first job and learned valuable life lessons; the place to stop for an
18 engaging discussion of politics or local news; and home to the best hot dogs in town; and

19 WHEREAS, he was a faithful and loving husband to his wife, Mrs. Vonceil Williams; a
20 dedicated father to his two sons, James Daniel and Terry Dwayne Williams, and his daughter,
21 Mary Diane Acree; and a beloved grandfather to his five grandchildren and two
22 great-grandchildren; and

1 WHEREAS, his successes were Smyrna's successes, and he left his mark on the community
2 not just in the houses he built, the public fishing lake he opened, the many businesses he
3 owned, or the bank he helped to found, but also in the lives he touched, the wisdom he
4 shared, the community leaders he helped to shape, and the example he made of his life; and

5 WHEREAS, over their memorable lunches, G. B. Williams shared his many stories and
6 imparted those values which had served him so well to his grandson, Chad Williams, who
7 is working hard to carry on his grandfather's impressive legacy.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
9 the members of this body join together to remember the life of G. B. Williams and honor his
10 legacy of hard work and determination as well as his many lasting contributions to the
11 Smyrna community.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
13 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of G. B.
14 Williams.